

Parish of Wareham PCC

Minutes of the PCC meeting held at the Parish Hall on Wednesday 26th March 2025

Present: Team Vicar the Reverend Neil Kelly **NK** and the Reverend Deborah Swann **DS**, Mike Quinlan **MQ**, (Chair), Hilary Goodinge **HG**, Nick Burden **NB**, Simon Lathwell **Simon L**, Anne Laking **AL**, Priscilla Spurling **PS**, Jon Moulton **JM**, Leslie Selby **LS**, Tony Tew **TT**, Rebecca Green **RG**, Jenny Elmes **JE**, Ginny Collings **GC**, Mark Lapper **ML** (Treasurer), Debs Barclay **DB** (Secretary) David Nicholas (as observer)

“Statement of Purpose” – “We are a group of Trustees who, together with the Clergy, oversee the life of Wareham Parish to ensure that we are focused on what Jesus Christ is calling us to do. In all that we do, we aim to seek God’s will, work well with one another, reflect our values, and take positive action for the future.”

PCC Chairperson: Mike Quinlan (Lay Chair)

MQ welcomed David Nicholas and explained that David has offered to be our new PCC Secretary

Opening Prayers and a Homily on Generosity, group reflection and discussion led by the Reverend’s Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann – reading from Galatians 5 25-35.

- 1. Apologies for absence: Sarah Levett, Heather Duncan, Margaret Harris**
- 2. PCC Minutes: 29th January 2025 to be Agreed:**

All those present voted in agreement that these minutes were a true account of the last meeting.

Matters arising:

- **Diptych update from Hilary Goodinge:**

Paul Harrison had been in contact with his friend Stuart Talbot with regards to giving **HG** some advice about the Diptych. A Faculty would be required to dispose of the Diptych. These pieces are definitely Limoges but there are no signatures on either piece and one of them has extensive damage. The Benefactors book has been researched, and these pieces were given by a Canon in the late 1800’s. **HG** or **MQ** will look on Ancestry website to see if any ancestors can be traced. **MQ** thought it would be a good idea to go back to William Wallis and to pass on the latest discovery, to see if these would fetch any money and to be sold.

All those present voted in favour

- **Lady St Mary church/Priory Hotel Car Park:**

DB reported that the Car Parking issue has settled and conversations with the hotel are working well.

- **Listed Places of Worship update:**

MQ reported that the LPW scheme has been extended for another year, but the number of applications will be limited, to an overall figure 23 million pounds, with claims for each church limited to £25,000.

- **New Rector update:**

MQ reported that the Reverends Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann applied for the job and after a successful interview they were selected as the new Team Rectors of Wareham. The installation service will take place on Sunday 6th July 2025. The Rectory becomes vacant in May 2025, and any further works required will take place in readiness for Neil and Deborah to move in June 2025.

- **New Team Vicar and selection Group**

The Bishop and Archdeacon of Sherborne are in agreement that the process for selecting a new Team Vicar should move quickly. There will be representatives from the PCC to be agreed in due course. **NK** said that the process will be on a very tight time scale. The type of person to be identified will be discussed and comments invited. The Parish profile will need to be approved by Easter; the Parish Profile for the New Rector will be adjusted to illustrate the needs for a new Team Vicar. Thoughts and ideas are welcome from all.

3. Administration and Correspondence:

PCC meeting dates for the rest of the year;

APCM – Wednesday 21st May 2025 at 7pm

Wednesday 11th June 2025 – 7pm

Meetings will take place in each of our churches prior to the APCM. New PCC members are required for 1 vacancy for St Martin on the Walls and 1 Deanery Synod place and for selecting Local Wardens and members of the church committees.

PCC permission to hold church events outside and not in the church buildings in line with Ecclesiastical Insurance stipulations:

Easter Egg Hunt at Sandford Primary School Saturday 5th April 2025

Walk of Witness Friday 18th April 2025

All those present voted in favour

Email from Malcolm Selwood

The PCC Secretary is in receipt of an email from Malcom to say that due to personal circumstances, he wished to step down from being a PCC Trustee. As Malcolm was a co-opted Trustee and this position was now vacant the PCC wished to co-opt David Nicholas as the new PCC Secretary at the next meeting on the 11th June.

All those present voted in favour

4. Team Vicar's update: (The Reverends Neil Kelly and Deborah Swann)

Deborah and Neil sent out their report prior to the meeting.

PCC Meeting Wareham Wednesday 26th March 2025

Team Vicars Update

In addition to worship, pastoral, administrative and management commitments, the past few months has included these additional activities:

Personal Faith & Spiritual Refreshment

Retreat Quarr Abbey 11-14th Feb – approx. one year in post. Helpful to reflect.

Leadership

- Facilitated Ministry Team Thinking Day 19th February East Holme – contributing to future vision and action planning
- Attending Deanery Chapter & Synod: Talk 'Communicating in a Digital World,' Rebecca Paveley, Diocese Director of Communications & Engagement. Very helpful for us as a parish when thinking about our communication strategy.
- Ecumenical working and support - Purbeck Leaders Lunch gatherings
- DS & NK Senior Staff Review planned with Assistant Archdeacon Lucy Holt.

Team Rector Vacancy

- Joint Application, Selection, and Interview for the post of Team Rector.
- Interview 4th March. Appointment confirmed as a job share, co-leading.
- Planning with Bishop & Archdeacon regarding post of Team Rector and Vicar:
 - o Interview for new Team Vicar 2nd July
 - o Team Rector Licensing Service and Welcome to new curate, with Bp Karen July 6th
 - o Move date to Rectory to be confirmed
- Consultation for new Team Vicar & Profile to be finalised by mid-May.

Ongoing Ministerial Training Cathedral Induction March 6th

Training: Lay Worship Leaders Course

- Facilitating, attending, and hosting Deanery Lay Worship Leaders Course:
Over 5 Saturdays 2-5pm, 1st Feb - 29th March
Wareham Parish Hall & Sandford St Martin Church and School

- Leading session on Prayer & Intercession
- Over 20 participants from the Benefice attending for some or all of the course
- Starting to meet with participants individually to confirm next steps
- Commissioning Service with Bp Karen at Lady St Mary 14th May 7pm

Pastoral

- Lay Pastoral Assistants Team started gathering for support & co-ordination – 5th Feb. Confirmed Safeguarding training needed and that all DBS checks up to date. Once training is completed a re-commissioning date will be arranged.
- Funerals and ongoing bereavement support to individuals
- Wedding Planning Event, with couples marrying in the Parish in 2025, LSM 5th April.

Young People

- Uniformed groups - session on Mothering Sunday with Rainbows
- Planning for District Scout's St George's Parade & Service in LSM 27th April
- Schools – continued weekly Collective Worship in all 3 schools together with HB
- Sandford St Martin - School Council Consultation on Collective Worship
- Preparation for SIAMs at Ethos Group – attended meeting with Diocesan Education Officer
- Easter storytelling for Wareham Toddler Group – 3rd April LSM
- Easter Egg Hunt Sandford 5th April (lay led team)

There were no questions for the Team Vicars.

5. Finance:

From: Mark Lapper (Treasurer) **To:** Members of the PCC

Date: 20th March 2025

Report to the PCC on Parish Finances - for the meeting on the 27th March 2025

2024 Annual report and accounts

The accounts and report must be approved by the PCC at this meeting.

Budget for 2025

Further to our discussion at last meeting regarding our parish share, the diocese has accepted a reduction to £92,898, or £7741.50 per month. If we achieve our budget aims this year, we will end up with unrestricted cash reserves of about £62,000 just above our 'safe level'. We still face a challenge to increase our income through regular giving, fund raising activities, grants and legacies. We need to make every effort promote these income streams.

Income this year to date

It is too early to make an accurate estimate of where our finances will end up this year. This is a guess at the **trends** so far:

- Planned giving and collections: slightly below our plan for the year
- Donations: better than our estimate
- Other income streams: all well below target so far
- Parish hall and refreshment income: below our target

Overall, our income of £20610, if scaled up, is close to our revised budget, but assumes some major inputs in categories which have not yet delivered income.

Expenditure this year to date

We continue to run at a deficit, £6999 in two months, which is now projected as £20511 at year end. Our general fund balance is expected to reduce to £59004, which is edging toward our 'safety level'. It is unlikely that we can reduce our parish share again, and we do not want to dip below our safety level. **We urgently need initiatives to raise funds for our church and mission.**

Our three largest expenses, in decreasing order of size, are diocesan share, **which pays for our clergy, their houses and pensions**, parish office staff costs, and church & parish hall running expenses.

Grant applications

We have received one response so far from our eight completed grant applications. There are a number still to finish. The treasurer would welcome any help with completing the somewhat arduous applications.

M Lapper Treasurer

- Budget 2025 – ***Sent out prior to the meeting***
- The End of year Accounts to be adopted by the PCC Trustees
Proposed by Mark Lapper and seconded by Hilary Goodinge All those present voted in favour
- Finance Committee Report – ***There has been no meeting***
- Parish Fund Raising:
A Jewellery Appeal has been arranged by Michael and Gay Young

T. E. Lawrence Day Saturday 17th May 2025 at SMOW, HG reported that there will be talks and music, the money raised will go to the Parish not just SMOW. Ray Little the representative from Clouds Hill has been in contact with HG with regards to the day.

Christmas Tree Festival 4th – 14th December 2025 at SMOW, the committee have met, and HG will update the PCC as and when.

- Grants
There has been a grant offered from Pam Stoate but there are conditions to this grant and monies will not be released until these have been met, the grant is for £2000.
MQ has been in contact with Malcolm Lewis Fry with regards to fundraising for repairs to the Anthony Trew monument. Anthony Trew was the Mayor of Wareham on 7 separate occasions. He was involved with administering £5000 (today the amount would be equivalent to £870000) following the Great Fire of Wareham in 1762 to help those who had suffered. Malcolm will use the commission of the sales at the Art Auction as a donation to the monument. A table at this event will be set up to promote the Priory Church of Lady St Mary. MQ will also be looking at other grants for the monument repair.

6. Safeguarding:

- Safeguarding courses are now online
- Verbal update from Safeguarding Officer – **There were no safeguarding issues to report**
- New members to do basic training, if they have no safeguarding training/**renewals**
- All Trustees need to be DBS checked

7. Fabric Update:

- Report from Fabric Officer to the PCC Secretary for distribution to the PCC prior to the meeting. There was no Fabric Report but the Wareham churches Fabric Matters spreadsheet and the minutes of the Fabric meeting were sent out prior to the meeting.

Matters Arising from the Fabric Committee meeting are as follows:

Quinquennial Repairs working party is required to do some clearing away of debris and painting.

NB said that we need a faculty for the replacement of the screens and the removal of the font cover and there is a plan for the clergy desks to be replaced.

- (1) MQ asked for the approval for the carpet to be cut off at the end of the aisle and will contact M J Furnishing for advice to cut and edge the carpet.

All present were in favour

- (2) Children's play area in Lady St Mary church is to be relocated, looking for a suitable area where this can be placed due to more wheelchair users using this area.
- (3) The new heating scheme in St Martin on the Walls is proving to be a difficult proposition, as Historic England continue to be very difficult which has led to two archaeologists resigning. We have spent in the region of £40000 on roof and masonry repairs and the Fabric Fund is now totally depleted. We do not have the funds to carry on with the heating project. Unfortunately this would mean that we would lose the money which has been offered by the Diocese.

In view of the above MQ asked that as a PCC we pause on this project for the time being.

Proposed by Hilary Goodinge and seconded by Becky Green - All those present voted in favour

There were no other questions.

8. Parish Hall

- The Parish Hall committee met on 8th January 2025 and minutes had been circulated
- Dates of further meetings:
25th June 2025 at 2pm
24th September at 2pm

9. Committees

- **To include any matters arising from the last PCC minutes dated 29th January 2025**

***Congregational Church Committee updates to be emailed to the PCC Secretary for distribution to the PCC prior to the meeting**

- **Church Committees** – Sent out prior to the meeting were the revised Terms and Conditions for Lady St Mary church, which the PCC are now responsible for the hiring and not the church congregational committee. There is also an amendment to clause 6 in that any electrical appliance should have PAT certificate.
East Holme - AGM minutes had been received from Jon M and Les S. MQ expressed his thanks to Jon for all his hard work for the fundraising at East Holme. Purbeck Village Quire will be singing in church at 4pm on Sunday 18th May 2025 and again in December.
- **Children and Youth committee**
- **Mission committee** – Mission Sunday will now take place in September.
- **Environmental updates**
- **Standing committee**
- **Finance**

10. Questions for the Churchwardens:

- There were no questions for the Churchwardens.

11. Deanery Synod Update:

- The meeting took place at the All Saints church in Swanage – The Diocese Communications officer, Rebecca Paveley led the meeting and talked about digital challenges with regards to websites and Facebook. Noticeboards were also discussed. The best noticeboard in the Deanery was Steeple in West Purbeck Benefice, which is very welcoming. There are many things that we can do, signpost to 'A church near you' with regards to weddings, as well as posting events on social media regularly. There is a senior member of the Diocesan Team to be linked to the Purbeck Deanery. The next Deanery meeting will be in May.

12. A.O.B.

A.O.B. please forward to the PCC Secretary 48 hours prior to the meeting – **There was no other business to report.**

Closing Prayer:

Almighty God, we thank you that you have called us to be your body here on earth, worshipping you and working for your kingdom. Fill us with your Spirit, so that we might love you, love one another and love our neighbours, and share the good news of Jesus. Help us as the PCC to order the life of Wareham around your mission and ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen

Meeting closed at 9pm

Next meeting:

Wednesday 11th June 2025 – 7pm

Signed.....Chairdate